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MARCH, 1919

No. 3

A MONTHLY MISSIONARY JOURNAL
Published by The Board of Foreign
Missions of the Synod of the Re-
formed Presbyterian Church of North
America in the interest of Mission Work

God send us men, alert and quick,
His lofty precepts to translate,
Until the laws of Christ become
The laws and habits of the State.

—F. J. Gilman.

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Missionary Journal

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE
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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

VOL. XXXII

MARCH, 1919

No. 3

EDITORIALS

A UNION MOVEMENT

Preparation for a campaign of education in home and foreign missionary work is now under way, under the direction of a committee appointed by a meeting of the representatives of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards held last December in the city of New York. This meeting was called by the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Presbyterian Church, and was very fully attended by the representatives of the Boards of other denominations. It is planned to first of all to make a united survey of the needs of both home and foreign fields and to gather the information of these surveys together in such a way that it can readily be presented to the various churches, then to follow this with a series of conferences to be held at different places throughout the country to awaken interest in the movement and the program to be presented; then, finally, to make a united effort to secure the support of the Protestant Churches of America to the program to be presented that shall adequately represent the application

of American Christian strength to these great world needs.

This appears to be a perfectly sane and very timely movement, and as it does not involve projects of actual union work, it is apparently free from objection, and it is to be hoped we may have a part in it and may get good from it. Many of our congregations gained help and inspiration from the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and there seems to be no reason why we should not from this. It will make itself heard later, but our various congregations should be ready to get the benefit from it.

* * * *

CHINA AND THE BREWERIES

The following letter addressed to Mrs. Stevenson, Vice-President of the Philadelphia W. C. T. U., expresses the attitude of our missionaries towards the liquor traffic and the fears they have of its transfer to China:

Dear Mrs. Stevenson:

The following appears in the *Canton Times* for December 14th:
 "San Francisco, December 12.—A

general exodus of brewers from the United States to China is forecasted in a statement by Rudolph Samet, President of the California State Brewers' Association. He said: "We are looking to China as the best place to locate. I am going to China in a few days to arrange for the construction of a \$2,000,000 plant for one brewery.

"Other brewers are making similar arrangements.

"American Wireless."

I have been expecting something like this but didn't think they would come in such numbers. We must do all we can to hinder and prevent the culmination of such hell born plans as the above. China has enough dirt of her own without taking in what other nations are throwing off.

Do everything and anything you can to prevent the execution of these plans through all of your channels of publicity. I have been wondering if such men could register as American citizens while in China and engage in business that if carried on in their home country would make them criminals.

That you do all in your power to save China from the devastating influence of this awful traffic is the appeal of all our missionaries.

Yours in haste,

E. J. M. DICKSON.

China has been making a splendid effort to overcome its native vice of opium smoking and by its efforts has won the sympathy of the Christian world. That this traffic, so soon to be banished from America, should be deliberately preparing to settle down there is pathetically unfortunate. Yet what else could be expected? There is no law to prevent it, and those who have thrived on the traffic in this country are such strangers to conscience that the fact that it would debauch a race could not be expected to deter them for a single moment if only it promised to make them rich. The solution of the problem which naturally occurs to one's mind is to

hang them all when they get out of this business next July, before they can get into any other such enterprise or carry their trade to another land, but as there would possibly be objection to this on the part of some moral pacifists and others not fully informed, probably the best thing would be to take every possible means just now to warn the Chinese of the great bane of the traffic, and to strengthen the officials in the effort which will certainly be made to safeguard their own land from the outlawed curse of America.

* * * *

AN ALPHABET FOR CHINA

It has ever been recognized that one of the great hindrances to the progress of the Gospel in China is the almost universal illiteracy of the common people. This has been true not only because of their poverty and distress but because of the great difficulty in learning to read and write their difficult language. An educated man in China must be familiar with from four to six thousand words, and as each word is represented by a fixed character, the task of learning them is immense. It makes a literary education impossible to one who cannot devote his whole time to its cultivation. Missionaries have recognized this as a very real barrier in reaching the lower castes and as throwing a shadow over their hopes for the general spread of distinctly Chinese education.

A method which is said to solve the problem almost like a miracle has recently been devised. To describe it we can best quote from the words of Mr. Delavan L. Pierson, Editor of *The Missionary Review of the World*. He says:

"A miracle that is now witnessed all over China is made possible by the invention of a system of phonetic writing adopted a few years ago by the Chinese Government Board of Education. The system is composed of some twenty-four initials, twelve finals and three medial vowel sounds.

The symbols, which are easily learned, resemble parts of Chinese characters, and are written in vertical columns. The symbols always have the same sound and any word in the language can thus be written by means of an initial and a final with or without a connecting vowel. Teachers can master the system in a few hours and even people of no education can learn to use it in a few days or weeks.

"In many parts of North China missionaries have seen this miracle with their own eyes in hundreds of cases. A man walks into the London Missionary Society Hospital at Psangtsangchow for an operation. While he lies on his cot recovering from the disease, an evangelist teaches him to read the Bible by means of a new system of writing, and lo, in three weeks' time this man, who was unable to read a line when he entered the hospital, walks out, not only cured of his disease, but able to read with ease anything in the Gospel that has been given him to take home!

"An aged woman long past the years when there seems any hope of her ever being able to read, becomes interested in Christianity and joins an inquirer's class in the neighboring mission station. Day by day a part of the instruction consists in teaching her to read this new system, and a few weeks later when she returns to her village home she is the wonder and admiration of all, because she, too, is able to read intelligently from the little books which she has carried back with her.

"Under the leadership of the China Continuation Committee, pastors and educators, as well as missionaries, have unanimously recommended the widespread teaching of the system throughout the Church, and a simultaneous drive for a literate Christian constituency has been started and leaders expect to make effective use of this new system in teaching non-Christians. By this means at last the great masses of China's four hundred

million people, and not simply the favored few, can be reached through Christian literature. The significance of these facts can hardly be overstated at the present time, when China is trying to reform her Government and to take her place among the great democracies of the world."

* * * *

SYRIAN RELIEF

It is never safe to put one's self in the way of even the generous impulses of the Covenanter Church. When Mrs. Stewart's letter asking for help of every kind for Syria was received, we naturally began to make it public. The letter, which was the first that had come through from Latakia, was published in the *Christian Nation* and the OLIVE TREES, and was also circulated in private letters to the various pastors of the Church. About the same time it was discovered that shipping facilities were so limited that for the present goods could not be sent, and so the appeal was accompanied by a request not to ship anything now, and the information that shipping directions would be sent later. This latter part of the message, however, seems not to have been taken so seriously as the first part, and so our Corresponding Secretary has been spending much of his time lately in answering the letters of those who want to ship their goods at once. He is sending out an S. O. S. signal to save himself, for he finds he is in danger of having to convert his home into a storage house for boxes to be sent to Syria. Nothing could be finer than the spirit of this response; but all goods must be held for the present. They cannot now be shipped, and the Board has no place to store them. As soon as it is possible to ship them directions will be sent to all the congregations, and in the meanwhile all that we can do is to get ready to ship them when the time comes.

LEADING (?) CHINA INTO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

ANSON BURLINGAME

By Rev. D. Raymond Taggart

This is the second of a series of articles by Mr. Taggart on "Men Who Have Helped China Politically."

If the shade of our beloved Washington could return and find our representative occupying one of the most important seats in the Versailles conference, he might sadly shake his head and say, "America has come a long way since my farewell warning to avoid entangling European alliances." But should his contemporary, the Chinese Emperor, return and find China represented there, what possible action could sufficiently express his surprise and protest? How came the Celestial to mingle with the barbarian? Well, the barbarian compelled him to go the first mile, and he is going the second partly at least of his own accord.

The history of that first mile is illustrated by a Japanese fable. Once upon a time the fish of the sea were thrown into consternation by the appearance of a new enemy—a man with net and drag. Calling a council to provide for their safety, one proposed this, another that. The claim said that for himself he had no fear; he had only to close his shell to keep out all enemies. Splash! came the drag; the fish scattered, and he lay snug until all was quiet. Then cautiously peeping out, he saw scrawled on the opposite wall: "This clam, two cents," and he knew that he was *sold*. But let us go farther back.

The intercourse of states was well understood in ancient China, the empire being divided into numerous principalities, nominally vassal, but really independent. On their consolidation in B. C. 240, diplomacy became a lost art. China became the "Central Flowery Kingdom," actually

believing herself to occupy the centre of the earth, and to be without peers. Shut off from other nations by high mountains and seas, there was little intercourse to disturb this blissful ignorance until the first Portuguese vessel landed in 1516. The international relations of the next three centuries might be said to have been exclusively commercial, if one can stretch that word to cover pillage, arson, rape, conquest, smuggling contraband opium and kidnapping coolies, as well as the legitimate practices usually classed as commercial. Of this constantly increasing commerce, the Chinese officials took no notice. Even in later year the Governor of Canton said: "The commissioned officers of the Celestial Empire never take cognizance of the trivial affairs of trade. The some hundreds of thousands of commercial duties yearly coming from the said nation, concern not the Celestial Empire to the extent of a hair or a feather's down. The possession or absence of them is utterly unworthy of one careful thought." While this is largely camouflage, nevertheless China's idea of success is a man with a classical education, and such they meant that it should remain. China's real reasons for deferring diplomatic relations with foreign nations then might have been summed up in two large volumes, volume 1, "What China did not know about foreign nations" (favorable) and volume 2, "What China did know about foreign nations" (unfavorable). In trying to subtract from the contents of volume one, unfortunately, the nations only added to the table of contents of volume two.

Russia, having been defeated in battle by the Chinese in 1689, was

the first European power to make a treaty with China. The prolonged negotiations took place between the lines in presence of both armies, with two Catholic missionaries acting as advisers and interpreters. Two copies of the treaty were in Latin, one in Russian, and one in Chinese. After reading them aloud, signing, sealing and delivering them to each other, the contracting parties rose together, "and holding each the copies of the treaty of peace, swore in the name of their masters to observe them faithfully, taking Almighty God, the sovereign Lord of all things, to witness the sincerity of their intentions."

In 1719, Russia desiring a revision of this treaty, sent an embassy headed by Ismailoff to Peking. Some of the Russians had taken their wives as far as the frontier, but here they were halted and sent back, the Chinese official ungallantly saying, "We have enough women in Peking." (European women were not admitted to Canton until about 1840.) At Peking this embassy met the vexed question which was to be the bone of contention between China and her contemporaries for more than one hundred years; namely, what ceremonies should ambassadors perform on their being received by the Emperors. Minutely, this was a question of on how many knees should the foreigner kneel, how many times should he strike his head on the ground, etc., etc. Broadly it was a question of recognizing the nation represented as vassal to the Emperor of China, and more than one ambassador wended the long, long trail to Peking and returned without having accomplished anything, because he flatly refused to perform the servile ceremonies. The Russian, however, after due protest, did the full tale of three kneelings and nine prostrations. But as a reward, he secured a treaty, fixing boundaries, and trade relations, and permitting six priests and four laymen to reside at Peking.

Indeed homage was sometimes exacted without the knowledge or consent of the ambassador. About 1790, the British sent Lord Macartney, governor general of India as the head of an embassy notable for its personnel and display with which it sought to impress the Chinese government and people. They ascended the Peiho in boats. What was their chagrin later to learn that these boats had throughout the journey displayed banners which read, "Ambassador bearing tribute from the country of England." After long discussions a compromise was reached that Lord Macartney should kneel before the Emperor only while presenting the king's letter. That, however, was all that he accomplished. Nevertheless the King of England sent return presents, and these were recorded in the Chinese annals as "tribute sent by the king of England to the Son of Heaven," with the additional compliment that it was one of the most splendid testimonials of respect that a tributary nation had ever paid their court. They evidently did not know that

"Britannia rules the wave,"

or that

"Britons never, NEVER, shall be slaves."

Another of Great Britain's attempts to penetrate the Chinese wall of obstinacy was a commission sent in 1834, headed by Lord Napier. The choice was not fortunate, for he put too much emphasis on the lord and too little on the Napier. But even in this he could hardly be said to misrepresent his country, for such is often the attitude of the English toward their subject races. Disregarding the usual regulations about landing in Macao, and communication through the Hong merchants he notified them that he "would communicate immediately with the viceroy in the manner befitting his Majesty's commission and the honor of the British nation." His

official papers were refused access to the governor of the province, not having the word "pin" (petition) as an expression of abject inferiority, and because as the governor reported to the emperor, on the envelope, "there was absurdly written the characters *Great English Nation*."

Two of the communications that passed during that long wrangle are worthy of note. In one the Chinese reminded Lord Napier of his shortcomings in courtesy: "To sum up the whole matter, the nation has its laws. Even England has its laws. How much more the Celestial Empire! How flaming bright are its great laws and ordinances! More terrible than the awful thunderbolt! Under the whole bright heaven, none dares to disobey them. Under its shelter are the four seas. Subject to its soothing care are ten thousand kingdoms. The said barbarian eye (Lord Napier) having come over a sea of several myriads of miles in extent to examine and have superintendence of affairs, must be a man thoroughly acquainted with the principles of high dignity."

For boastful hyperbole this could hardly be excelled but the Englishman had the advantage of being last. Part of his farewell message reads: "Governor Loo has the assurance to state in the edict that 'the King (my master) has always been reverently obedient.' I must now request you to declare that his Majesty, the King of England, is a great and powerful monarch, that he rules over an extent of territory in the four quarters of the world more comprehensive in space and infinitely more so in power than the whole empire of China; that he commands armies of bold and fierce soldiers, who have conquered wherever they went; and that he is possessed of ships, where no native of China has ever dared to show his face. Let the governor then judge if such a monarch will be 'reverently obedient' to any one." Lord Napier then retired to Macao, where he died of

over-exposure. Perhaps he cooled off too suddenly.

Mutual aggravations between England and China, however did not die with him, but culminated in 1840 in war, when the Chinese authorities destroyed \$8,000,000 of British opium that was being forced on China, contrary to her laws. Words cannot sufficiently condemn the occasion, or the settlement of that war. Are they not written in the Chronicles of the Judge of all the earth? But this was only an incident in gunboat diplomacy. It secured the opening of five ports for foreign trade.

In talking of Chinese characteristics, one often hears reference to the Parable of the Camel's Nose, which his owner allowed him to put under the edge of the tent, only to find a little later that the camel was occupying the tent to his own exclusion. This is not one of the tricks for which "the heathen Chinese is peculiar." No sooner was the British treaty of 1842 signed than further concessions were demanded. But the Chinese understand thoroughly how to counter the camel's trick. Ambassador Reade named it "passive resistance." Mr. Smith has named it "flexible inflexibility." I think it is universal in the race. It is the power of outwardly conceding everything, and at the same time yielding nothing. Chinese High Commissioner Yeh was a concentrated form of this flexible inflexibility, and was located at Canton as the sole medium for communication with Peking, and his line was always "busy." He actually wore out four successive American ambassadors, and no doubt an equal number from each of the other powers with his procrastinations. To every request for an interview he pleaded pressing engagements. "Suffer me then to wait for a little leisure, when I will make selection of a propitious day, that we may have a pleasant meeting." Frequently patience failed, and then there would be a gunboat demonstration up

the river, leading to Peking, but each time the flotilla was sent back with instructions to confer with Yeh. Thus for fifteen years, Yeh held the powers at bay with his flexible inflexibility. In 1857 a minor incident concerning British shipping was made the occasion of hostilities in which Yeh was captured, and sent to Calcutta, where he died soon after. His papers showed that his conduct had been directed from Peking, so that he was somewhat exonerated.

Further attempts at negotiations failing, the French and British destroyed the forts and ascended the Peiho to Teintsin, and were immediately followed by the American and Russian ambassadors, who had been forbidden by their respective governments to use violent measures. Peking was frightened and sent commissioners at once to revise the treaties. During the negotiations Dr. Martin, a missionary interpreter, presented the Chinese commissioners with almanacs. At the next meeting a commissioner pointed Dr. Martin to the tenth commandment, to lead them to observe it in their intercourse with the Chinese.

The British treaty was the last to be signed, as they demanded the most. Lord Elgin's diary reads: "We went on fighting and bullying, and getting the poor commissioners to concede one point after another till Friday, the 25th. Though I had been forced to act almost brutally, I am China's friend in all this."

These treaties all provided that foreign ambassadors should reside at Peking, but when the ambassadors arrived to exchange ratifications they were assaulted by the Taku forts, and driven off. Another naval demonstration was necessary before Peking showed any signs of treating foreign nations on terms of equality.

When the American minister went to exchange ratifications he was told he must perform the prostration, which he refused to do. It was urged

that the British had consented to bow on one knee, but Mr. Ward was a Southerner, and replied, "I kneel only to God and woman." The rejoinder "The Emperor is the same as God" failed to persuade the cavalier. He had to retire to the mouth of the Peiho to exchange ratifications.

The French and English secured their ratifications on their own terms in 1860 by driving the emperor and his court in flight to the north, and burning and pillaging the summer palace. Thus diplomatic relations were finally established. Trade would now be officially protected.

The foreign powers had made the mistake of believing the entire Chinese nation recalcitrant in regard to progress. There was in fact an element who were almost as anxious for progress as were the powers themselves, but they understood the temperament of their fellow-countrymen better, and knew just now fast they might allow things to move without precipitating an earthquake in which the progressives would be the victims. The Powers thought they were dealing with the most rabid progressives. It was fortunate that the first American ambassador to Peking, Anson Burlingame, was a man who saw, and sympathized, and urged patience.

His father was a school teacher, a Methodist exhorter, and a poor farmer, but he had one seed to grow, for which we must acknowledge him a success. It was the commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," sown in the heart of his son. It bore abundant fruit when he became an ardent abolitionist; it bore fruit again in 1856 when Burlingame unmercifully bawled out Brooks in a speech which afterwards became a popular declamation, for his murderous and cowardly attack on Senator Sumner; and shall we say it bore fruit a third time when he accepted the challenge of Brooks to a duel, proposing rifles as the weapon, and Niagara Falls as the place, which

Brooks declined; but the great fruitage was in what Burlingame did for China.

Appointed by Lincoln ambassador to Austro-Hungary, he was not acceptable because he had once expressed sympathy for Kossuth (how a word may change a career!), and was sent to China. Arriving the last of the ministers, he was soon acknowledged as first. He had four assets: A pleasing personality, an unflinching fund of good manners, an ardent enthusiasm and a passion for a square deal. These were all translatable into Chinese, and they were not behind his colleagues in acknowledging his leadership. His policies were, co-operation among the powers, the integrity of China, faithful observance of treaties by both sides, and patience in pressing reforms on China. The details of his six years of work cannot be given here. A few quotations will sum them up.

"He believed in the practical application to the business of diplomaacy of one of those commandments upon which hang all the law and prophets: 'Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.' He secured first a hearing, then attention, and at last conversion of the most disdainful group of civilized officials in Europe. His idea has become the professed policy of the nations during China's present turmoil. Mr. Burlingame can properly be called the father of the open-door principle." (Prof. Williams, Yale.)

"As an example of the influence of a single man attained over an alien race, whose civilization is widely different, whose religious belief is totally opposite, whose language he could not read, nor write, nor speak, Mr. Burlingame's career in China will always be regarded as an extraordinary event, not to be accounted for except by conceding to him a peculiar power of influencing those with whom he came in contact; a power growing out of a mysterious gift, partly intellectual, partly spiritual, and largely physical—which we designate as mag-

netism." (James G. Blaine.)

"If Burlingame's name be not forever associated with an epochal readjustment of the world's civilizations, then few names have missed immortality more narrowly." (Prof. William Garrott Brown.)

But his work was not all done in China. When he declared his intention of returning home he offered to China whatever service they might desire in the courts of Europe. "Why not become our ambassador?" was the hearty response. And this most extraordinary proposal was later accepted. Passing through Shanghai he happened upon a newspaper severely criticising his mercenary course in renouncing his American citizenship. All the way across he feared lest this represented the attitude of his countrymen. A great crowd was at the dock in San Francisco, and he asked the first negro over the gang plank what it meant. "Why the whole city is here to welcome the new Chinese minister, and the city authorities to proffer him its hospitalities," was the amazing reply. His stay here was a constant ovation. He made our treaty of 1868, which we have since almost repudiated in excluding Chinese. In England he gradually overcame the prejudice built against him by English merchants in China, and secured a promise of patience in dealing with China. He had similar success in Paris and Berlin. His work came to a sudden end through an attack of pneumonia, which caused his death at St. Petersburg.

With the death of the advocate, the nations resumed their old policy in China. John W. Foster says, "The imagination may well speculate upon what might have been the later history of China if his life had been spared to conclude his mission and to return to Peking to exercise his unusual personal influence upon the imperial court." Might the world have been spared the spectacle of the land-grabbings of the '90's and the Boxer trouble of 1900?

THE JEWISH MISSION

MISS ANNIE FORSYTHE—MISS EMMA McFARLAND

At the last meeting of the Board of the Jewish Mission it was recommended that some items of the report be sent you for publication. In doing so we wish to make special acknowledgment of gifts from the following Missionary Societies: Stafford, Blanchard, Oakdale, Bear Run and First Church of Philadelphia; also, Sabbath School Classes of the First and Third Churches in Philadelphia remembered us in their gifts. From the Guild House of the Third Church were received two bookcases and a supply of books, pictures and Bibles and testaments. The Philadelphia and Moore branches of the Needlework Guild contributed over 140 garments. These were at once distributed among poor families and were much appreciated.

Through the kindness of Miss Boots, who is known to a number of the people in our churches here, we were saved the trouble and expense of providing gifts for our children. She kindly took the names of those for whom we wished to receive gifts and interested others in them and the Saturday before Christmas brought us over one hundred packages ready for distribution. When they were delivered in an auto we were afraid the attention of the children would be attracted and their curiosity aroused, but just at that time the street was very quiet and no word went abroad of the arrival of what looked like Christmas gifts. We were indeed grateful for this special Providence in our favor.

A box manufacturer kindly contributed 100 candy boxes for use at our entertainment. Gifts of toys and candy were sent from Wanamaker's. The Sabbath School room of the Old Pine Street Church was again given for our use for our Annual Entertain-

ment. The program consisted of Bible exercises and the children took interest in preparing for it.

We wish to express our appreciation of the help given in the work here by Mr. Henderson, of the First Church, whose death occurred a few weeks ago.

We sent recently from our Sabbath School the sum of \$8.50 for the Armenians, and are again raising money for this purpose. The children contribute not only at Sabbath School but whenever they happen to have the money.

The interest in Bible reading still continues. The regular readers report that their teachers say they are the "best readers" in their rooms in school. A second child, whose name occurs frequently in the daily record book, died of pneumonia recently. We are glad to remember she had so much of God's Word in her mind, and understood it so well.

The passage which is read, and the favorite verse in it, is marked, and each child is surprised as she looks over her Bible to discover how often she comes across the marked passages.

We value every opportunity to explain God's Word to our friends here. Now as I write boys and girls are stopping on their way from school "to read." Their homes give no opportunity for them to learn of the holy Scriptures, "which are able to make them wise unto salvation through faith," so we ask God's blessing on every word they read here.

We wish to thank all, whether individuals or societies, who have remembered us and the work here. Special mention should be made of the blessings granted to us, in the health given to the workers, in the open doors before us, and in the answers that have come to our prayers.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AND NOTES OF THE WORKERS

Edited by MRS. FINDLEY M. WILSON, 2517 North Franklin Street,
Philadelphia, Penna.

On February 16th, Sabbath morning, at dawn, our missionaries to the Levant sailed away from New York as members of the Armenian and Syrian Relief Expedition. They went aboard Saturday as the Ship Leviathan awaited orders to sail. Our New York and Philadelphia churches all knew before the hours of worship on Sabbath that their brave brethren were on the deep, returning to their work. Earnest prayers went up to God for them. Strange that the vessel on which they sailed was the proud Vaterland belonging formerly to Germany, whose lawlessness and atrocity have for four years kept our missionaries from their fields of labor. Judged by the splendid service of this vessel in recent months—carrying soldiers and supplies and missionaries—the building of the Vaterland (now the Leviathan) was one of the best things Germany did for the world in many a day.

Our missionaries were summoned to report in New York February 5th-8th. The expedition was expected to sail Monday, the 10th. Accordingly the Board was called to meet our workers in New York, Saturday, the 8th. Miss French, detained by the serious illness of her sister in a Kansas City Hospital, did not reach there until Monday evening the 10th. Dr. J. M. Balph, Miss Sterrett and Mr. Willson and family were all in New York by Friday the 7th. The members of the Board, Mr. Kempf, and Miss Brownlee, had a delightful time of prayer and fellowship with them. A particular object of conference was to insure that the missionaries and the Board should be of one mind on the subject of laying out the work now to be inaugurated in the districts centering in Mersina and Latakia. Never heretofore has it

been possible even to plan, much less develop, the work without hindrances of every kind by the Turkish Government. Two considerations now lead to the unanimous belief that plans should be made to meet the need, the entire need, of the districts; freedom of action and the ravished and appalling condition of the people. They are returning stripped of everything but life—some of them half dead—to a land bare beyond our conception. Hence, we conclude now is the time to lay the foundations of a Christian life for the people. The work of our missionaries for some time will be largely relief work. But as soon as these workers can confer with those on the fields we request them to submit to us a program adequate to the situation sufficient to meet the need, *all the need*, of the people, that this program may be submitted to the Church in the belief that the Church will accept the responsibility and set itself as soon as possible to meet that need. The Board had some thought a few weeks ago of asking a delegation of its members to accompany the party with a view to securing the facts to laying out such a plan. Possible delays in transportation, both ways over the sea and from point to point in the fields, led to the abandonment of this thought. It is now hoped that the missionaries after being reunited may reach their conclusion and submit to the Board such a program in time for the Board to present it to Snyod.

Meanwhile, the Lord carry our brethren safely to their places of labor, where their hearts have been all these months, and give to them and their brave co-workers in Mersina and Latakia the wisdom which is profitable to direct and the courage to devise liberal things for Him who

says: "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore—and lo, I am with you always."

FINDLEY M. WILSON,
Corresponding Secretary.

The following news dispatch relative to the Relief Expedition appeared in Philadelphia papers, Monday, February 10th:

"New York, Feb. 16.—Sailing as an 'argosy of life and hope' to the 4,000,000 destitute people of the Holy Land and other regions of the Near East, the steamship Leviathan left this port today for France with the largest contingent of missionaries, doctors and relief workers ever sent overseas at one time on such a mission. They will reach Constantinople, their destination, about March 15 in another vessel sailing from Brest.

"The party, comprising 250 members, chiefly women, has been preceded by equipment for fifteen hospitals, food, clothing and portable buildings, sixty motor trucks and other material donated by the American Red Cross and the American committee for relief in the Near East. The supplies are valued at more than \$3,500,000.

"A number of men workers, who sailed on three previous ships, are already engaged in the relief of thousands of starving Syrians, Armenians and Persians. All American religious creeds are represented.

"Dr. George L. White, president of Anatolia College at Marsovan, Turkey, leader of the missionary section, who was driven out of Turkey in 1916 after eight of his professors had been slain and the young women members of the victims' families taken captives into Turkish harems, said the present expedition was under the protection of the French and British governments."

* * * *

There has been much interest in the fact that Rev. Samuel Edgar, our Syrian missionary, now serving under

the Red Cross in Tripoli, Palestine, had paid a visit to his former station at Latakia and had seen the brave women who have held the fort there, but it is fine to have Mr. Edgar's own account of his trip. He wrote on December 24:

"SIX DAYS IN THE SADDLE WITH AUSTRALIAN SCOUTS."

"You must not think for a moment that this is to be a bushwhacker's story, or a mountain chase through the wild parts of Australia, for it is simply to tell of a three days' ride to Latakia. I am the farthest north of our Red Cross unit, and from the time I was transferred to Haifa and assured that later I would be farther north I have constantly looked for the glad day that would find me on old scenes again, and in that place sacred to us all because of precious lives that have served there, and for our own living interests that have held us close to Syria all these years and kept it ever uppermost in all our intercessions. So it was glad news when I received a wire from Jerusalem, telling me to report to our commanding officer in Beirut. With another of our workers we made a fine trip in a small steamer that runs between Tripoli and Haifa. My associate was to take charge of an orphanage in the Lebanons, so our ways parted in Beirut. However, we had the joy of being with the American Community for their Thanksgiving dinner and hearing the address of the day given by one of our own unit, Major Nicol. It was as some said a real Thanksgiving for the previous feast day of 1917 had found them with suitcases all ready to go at the Turk's command, and his commands those days were not easy. However, the Lord had cared for them and they were not molested.

"On arriving in Beirut, our first inquiry was for a steamer for Latakia. Did want to be with them for Thanksgiving, but soon had to sur-

render this precious thought and be with them in spirit only. On arriving here again, we began our inquiries for steamers, but was assured there was nothing certain and very little hope. Yes, I could have passage right away to Alexandretta, but not caring for this I sought other ways. Could find no horses to rent for the trip as the Turks left few pack animals in the country. So the thought occurred to me that possibly I could borrow an army horse; at least we could inquire. So I was soon in contact with the Australian Commander, General Grant, and a big man, too. He was most cordial and ready to help out in any good work. So he gave me a horse and also gave me two of his most trusty scouts.

"You can believe me, it was with great joy we started on that trip. It seemed but right that I should begin my saddle work again in Syria, where I laid off; for you will remember that it was from this city of Tripoli I was delivered from the hands of the Turkish authorities, that same power that has made so many miserable hours for mission stations and missionaries. The trip on the map looks short, but for one who did not enjoy the luxury of a saddle for four years (having only such things as Fords and their like), it becomes a long trip and especially the last few hours. Somehow you begin to think there ought to be a new art of saddlemaking that would make life more attractive. But these thoughts fade away in the greater joy of realized hopes. Our first night we spent in Tartoos, where about four years ago we had been honored with a private guard and an Irishman's hospitality. The latter is still there, but the former in Egypt, himself a prisoner; that is, if he still lives. Poor Tartoos has suffered. Houses smashed and wood torn from them; people driven into the mountains and, then, on return, to find all they had destroyed or stolen. This being true only of the Christian part of the town.

"Our second day's trip was not so pleasant, for soon the rain began to beat down on us and continued to do so lavishly, for it can still rain in Syria. All the way to Jebley it poured and brought to mind a similar experience when Rev. McFarland and I made a trip to say farewell to Miss Wylie ere she started home on her last furlough. Ere arriving at Jebley we had a raging stream to cross, just as we had expected, and our animals were compelled to swim but my famous scout companions, who had fought Gallipoli through and chased Johnnie Turk by night and day from the Suez Canal to Aleppo, were little afraid of a rushing torrent and I was ready to follow them, remembering well the great object to be attained—fellowship with those who held our lines in the midst of all kinds of difficulties in Latakia. A good night's rest after we had wet feet dried and warmed, and an Algerian trooper, through the kindness of the French Governor, to minister to our needs. Early we were in the saddle for the last lap. As the old city drew near, all the old landmarks began to live anew. At this turn four years ago Dr. Stewart and I parted, and now he was himself returning somewhere from a similar banishment, though his was under the flag of the Turks. It was wholesome cheer to have James Stewart, Jr., and several of our workers, come out to meet us. And then to be welcomed by those for whom we had so often prayed and for whose safety we had fervently interceded was worth going all the long journey. Miss Edgar has stood the toil and care with cheering faith, though often severely tried, and, perhaps, no time more so than when she was ordered to leave the school and go to the city to live. This was shortly after Dr. Stewart was compelled to leave. This cut her off from all direct contact with the school and increased the responsibilities of Mrs. Stewart, who already had enough on both heart and mind. But gracious

was the Lord and sustained them through it all. It was joy to visit the Fattal home and greet the new baby, Florence Ethel, that had joined the family circle in our absence. Mr. Fattal had been home from army service since last June and it was joy to have the family circle again complete.

"Then followed three short days of fellowship and home news that all were so hungry for. What stories we heard of these years! What sorrows! What suffering! What deaths! As one tale of sorrow followed another, you wanted to say, 'enough,' and yet you wanted to ask about another one that had just come to mind. This home is empty, all gone. That family was driven to the desert and no word since. The mother in that home was massacred and some of the family died of hunger and only one or two left. So the heart was rent and the eyes bathed with tears as we thought of some whom we had received into the church, children we had baptized, workers with whom we had counseled and prayed and now they had given their lives for their Master and His cause. We were glad you had all at home helped these who had died to know Jesus Christ and had prayed with them for that higher life in Him.

"The Sabbath was a precious day. Our Licentiate Khaleel, who spent the years in the mountains ministering as best he could under straitened circumstances, took the morning service. His heart is in his work; he loves to preach the word, and delights to be an ambassador of the Cross. In the afternoon the writer preached in English and administered the sacrament to the new baby Florence Ethel, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sadick Fattal. Then we heard sad stories of Gunamia and Kessab and Suadea, but I shall leave these for others who are more familiar and can tell you better than I can of all the separations, and oppression, and robbery, and murder, in these places where our

prayers have been lodged for years, lodged in the hearts of men and women and children whose lives you have helped to deepen and who because of you found it easier to suffer and die.

"Then Wednesday we started back, and, indeed, it was hard to leave. But we had another bit of work to do in this campaign and, with the living hope that Dr. Stewart would soon arrive, we could easier depart, and this hope was soon realized, for on arrival in Tartoos we had a telegram saying Dr. Stewart had arrived. Believe me, in heart we wanted to turn back, but we had great things calling us and had to push on, hoping that ere long we can again go and hear Dr. Stewart tell us of how your prayers kept and enriched him.

"Our third day, from Tartoos to Tripoli, was again generous with rains, yet rains and all, moonlight breakfast in a dirty khan, wet feet, tired back and limbs, all these things seemed little when we thought of the joy of heart to spend those hours with your workers and servants; workers who dared to brave all the dangers of the years, endure hardships, put up with inconveniences and serve the people for whom they have given their whole lives—to have this rich privilege was blessing to our own souls, and we trust as you hear their own stories you may have a higher appreciation of those who serve Him in Latakia and who declare the greatness of the love of the Christ.

"And now we are busy here in national service, caring for the weak and the starving; clothing the naked, and this in reality, for you can find them on the streets here without a rag of any kind to cover them; collecting the orphans and housing these and making work for the women that they may be fed. Such is the service you have sent us to and we trust you shall help us to be worthy of it. There are many other things about Latakia but the workers there will tell you all."

Another letter has come from Miss Maggie B. Edgar, of Latakia. It was written on December 3, 1918. Miss Edgar says: "The schools here in Latakia are at work and, as there is better general health than when I wrote last, the attendance has increased quite steadily of late, though it is still not so good as it has been sometimes.

"Our licentiate, Mr. Khalil Awad, is with us, and preaching every Sabbath. We are glad to have him, and his earnestness and zeal is encouraging. We pray God will greatly bless his service and make him a power for good.

"The remnant of our poor Armenian people are gathering to their homes again. Very many have only ruined homes to come to, and some of the families who left them are entirely gone. A number of them have been coming to us for help. We do what we can but at the present we can only do very little of what they need. Many of them have been able to gather through hard work in the summer, some food for winter, but they are destitute of clothing and bedding, and all such things are so expensive now that they are quite beyond their reach.

"We have little news from outside yet. We will gladly welcome the time when we can have regular mails and papers from the home land."

Through the kindness of Dr. Balph we are able to give further items from a letter received from Miss Edgar. It, too, was written some time in December, presumably about the date of the other letter quoted above. She tells Dr. Balph, "As far as I know your household goods are all right. Have tried to look after them a little. I don't know what the moths, etc., may have done. In the hospital things have been gone over several times and only a few things are left of the hospital outfit. The schools here are going on and there is a good attendance now. There has been a Sabbath School and a mid-week service all the

time, so the Light has not been entirely put out.

"Our people generally are well. We seem a very small remnant since so many have been taken away in one way or another. Of our Armenian people taken from here we have little knowledge. Of the two or three left in Zoar we have not heard since July. Probably not many of the others are left. The remnant of the Gunamia people have returned to near their homes and have gotten orders for the people to get back their property. Most of their houses are in ruins and except for two families, none of them have anything to start on. There are about 120 left; there were originally about 300 or 400.

"Of your house in Gunamia only the walls are standing."

* * * *

Mersine, Asia Minor. It is good to know that there are prospects for Mrs. A. J. McFarland's immediate return to Mersine. She writes from Geneva, Switzerland, on January 28, "Friday of last week I received a telegram from the Embassy at Paris telling me to make immediate application to Berne for vise to France, and that the Legation at Berne had been requested to grant it immediately. Dr. Chambers received one next morning from Dr. Barton, through our Embassy, telling him to bring his 'party' to Paris. So we are getting ready and expect to leave here day after tomorrow. Dr. Chambers surmised that we are to travel with the Commission, but whether or no, we will at least be together, and so I will have good company all the way to Mersine. I will try and let you know by cable when we leave France. We have no definite plans now until we reach Paris and see what they want us to do. But I expect this will, maybe, be the last time I will write you from here."

Mrs. McFarland encloses a letter received from her husband, Rev. A. J. McFarland, at Mersine. He wrote

it December 21st. We are glad to quote from it as follows:

"It is long since I addressed you. I have had nothing from you since yours of October 19, which came more than a month ago. But now the English have opened an army post and are kindly accepting civil letters also, so I will try one to you at the old address, in the hope that it will go through promptly and perhaps reach you there or somewhere. Until the armistice talk began I had strong hope you would be here for Thanksgiving, but when the war all stopped so suddenly and threw the whole world into such confusion, again I gave up hope of seeing you before Christmas. Now it looks about as doubtful as ever that I will have you with me anyways soon. But the Lord knows best and will carry out his most wise and gracious plan for us and I try hard to cultivate patience, though it is more and more difficult in view of so many returning to their homes after a long absence. Dr. Stewart was here ten days but had a line from him at Beirut that he expected to reach home on Wednesday of this week. Sam is in Red Cross work in Tripoli. Dr. Badeer and the Rajapians are home. The latter were at Nabula a while and were taken prisoners.

"Am real well and enjoy seeing the English and French at work here repatriating exiles and war prisoners and enforcing order. English came a month ago but French only this week, and the first steamer for prisoners about a week ago. Have an officers' mess in our girls' dormitory and Miss Sterrett's kitchen. Doctor eats with them, as he has abandoned his work to help the English. In fact, he has been almost inaccessible for any but Turkish, German or English officers and Turkish soldiers for all these months since you left. Dr. Haas has a daily before-breakfast free clinic of about 150 and besides is taking in about 400 Turkish liras, bank note, a week from pay patients."

Larnaca, Cyprus. Extracts from a letter of Rev. Walter McCarroll, dated December 4, 1918:

"When the telegram announcing the signing of the armistice by the Germans came through just at 6 P. M. we certainly did some shouting in the school—had an impromptu service in the school-room. Next day we had a vacation and the day after that a Field Excursion.

"Again on Thanksgiving Day we closed school and held a service in the church. The church was packed and practically all the English community honored us with their presence. We had some good hearty singing and I preached from Isa. 12: 4, 5, 'Give thanks unto Jehovah; call upon his name, declare his doings among the peoples, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto Jehovah, for he has done excellent things: let this be known in all the earth.' The American flag was very much in evidence, both in the church and in the school dining-room, when we ate our Thanksgiving dinner.

"My brother's family is in Larnaca again, and, as last year, my brother comes down on Monday evening and returns again on Thursday afternoon. Evangelist Dimitriades also comes down and assists in teaching the Bible classes.

"We have some sixty boarders and over one hundred and forty day-boys. The girls' school, too, is running again on a small scale.

"In October the Spanish influenza visited our school as well as the rest of the island, but we did not close nor did we have any serious cases. Another epidemic of the same disease has broken out again but this time with more serious results apparently. A couple of the native teachers have had rather bad turns, but all in the mission circles at present writing are well.

"A delegation of the native Greeks left today in order to proceed to London and lay before the British Government the claims of Cyprus for

union with Greece. If such a political change should take place, I am afraid it would affect the work of the school and mission in Cyprus. We have not yet bought the athletic field for which Mr. Steele sent the money, thinking it wiser to wait until we see the probable fate of Cyprus."

In another letter of January 3 Mr. McCarroll further writes:

"We closed school for the first term on December 23. After a week of examinations we had a football match with the English school at Nicosia on our grounds at Larnaca on the afternoon of the 20th. We had the players and masters of the two teams to dinner in the evening, and after dinner had a literary meeting, consisting of reading essays, and a debate on the question, 'Is a lie ever justifiable?' On the morning of the 21st we had an inter-school hockey match, and in the afternoon of the same day a concert in aid of the relief work in Syria, the proceeds of which netted thirty pounds (£30).

"On the 23d the boarding department closed for vacation. This ended the first term of the school year 1918-19, which was marked by the largest attendance and the largest income of any term in the history of the school. We have the satisfaction of believing that the steadily growing popularity of the school is due to the solid work and the self-sacrificing devotion of the masters who have given themselves untiringly to the school.

"My brother's family returned to Nicosia on the 24th and spent the holidays in their own home.

"On the 25th the resident masters met in my room in the afternoon with a few others for a friendly cup of tea and some singing, closing with a word of prayer for the Divine blessing. In the evening Mr. Weir and I attended a dinner in the 'Grand' Hotel, given by Judge Stewart, President of the District Court, to the men of the Wireless Station. Weir helped to drive away dull care with a song or two, and the writer was

given an opportunity to tell of the meaning of Christmas and how the sacrificial spirit of the Christ had been revealed on an unprecedented scale in the mighty conflict just closed. We recalled the transformation of Scrooge through the revelation to his inner heart of the real meaning of Christmas-tide.

"On the 26th and 27th and 28th we had preparatory services and on the last Sabbath of the year we kept the feast of the Lord's Supper. Some twenty-eight took their places at the Lord's table. One name was added to the roll.

"On New Year's Day Mr. Weir and I were 'at home' to any that might care to call on us of our own people. A godly number came to see us.

"This week-end I shall spend in Kyrenia and next week shall have (D. V.) preparatory services in Nicosia for the Lord's Supper."

* * * *

Mrs. Calvin McCarroll has sent a fine letter for OLIVE TREES from Larnaca. She writes on November 29, 1918:

"In the first place let me say as we look back upon the work since our last writing there seems nothing of much importance to make known to you, so kindly forgive if I write of events—accounts of which you have already received from the better writers in our field of labor. The foremost thought in all of our minds today is, that peace has come into the world. Oh! such a glorious peace after such turmoil among all nations. It seems too good to be true and we can scarcely realize that hostilities have ceased, yet we realize that it was only when our Lord stepped forth and said 'Peace' that there was a great calm. As the Psalmist of old said, 'In the day that I called Thou didst encourage me with strength,' surely with so many prayers of God's children ascending daily to the Throne of Grace, that this war should cease and the cause of truth and righteousness should prevail, that God has

answered by encouraging with strength the armies of the Allies and they have come forth out of the fires victorious and, let us hope, purified. Our prayers now are that the cause of the Lord will increase and multiply throughout the whole world, and thus we shall see one more good result of this war, which, after all, is the greatest result, and more to be desired than the binding together of nations. The latter has its good points, however, and especially so in the case of our beloved United States and Great Britain. Let us pray for the time when the latter will follow the former's example in the prohibition question, also the example of self-sacrifice without hope of material gains. What a noble example our country has set forth, and we are prouder than ever of our nationality. With a man like Woodrow Wilson as President, our nation, let us hope, may be 'The example to the rest of the world of Truth and Christianity.'

"Yesterday was our Thanksgiving celebration, so you see we can celebrate even if we are away off here, away from home and the majority of our loved ones. We had a splendid Thanksgiving service in our church yesterday. Our brother Walter gave a fine discourse to a crowded house, as the English community were all present. We had the church decorated with flags of the Allies, but our American flags, of course, outnumbered any one of the other national flags. We also had plenty of ferns, chrysanthemums, etc., as decorations. We invited some of our friends to a Thanksgiving dinner and afternoon tea, to which we all did justice, even the rain of the afternoon being no drawback. We sang the national, as well as many old familiar songs, and, altogether, we did justice to our national Thanksgiving Day. Oh! we had especial reasons for having the best Thanksgiving yesterday that we ever had in Cyprus. God has been so wonderfully good to us and to think He allowed us to come through un-

scathed, except for the sadness of having lost many of our friends and acquaintances in the struggle. Our circle all keep well here as a general rule, nothing more serious than an occasional bout of fever, which is peculiar to Cyprus. There is a great deal of illness all about us, however, as what is known as 'The Spanish Fever' has again made its appearance, and we hear that seven people of this town died today from its effects. So it resembles the war, in that it seems to effect the whole world, as we have read that it has spread to America and England. Mr. Dimitriades and the doctor went back to Nicosia after tea yesterday and expect D. V. to return, as usual, on Monday next, to do their round of school work. The Doctor probably told you that I am not teaching this year on account of poor health. Last year was a bit of a strain, so he found it impossible for me to go on another year in the same course. I am very sorry, as it makes extra work for our men, but they are nobly putting their hands to the plough without looking back, although they are no doubt looking a distance into the future, as we are all thinking of a most needed rest, after the closing exercises next June, and we trust a way will be opened up so that we may get to the homeland next summer. Some of us cannot do this, however, if one or more new men from home are not secured in the near future to carry on the work here. It would be necessary for any new person coming out to be here for a month at least before school closes in order to get acquainted with the ways of the boys, as they are somewhat different from our home boys. Many of them never having been away from their villages before coming to the Academy, they have to be trained, not only in the English language, Bible, etc., but also in manners. They do splendidly, however, when you take all this into consideration. We are more hopeful now of having some teachers sent out to

Cyprus, as we hear that the restrictions are to be raised, which such a short time ago prevented any men of military age leaving the United States. It is absolutely necessary that some minister should be secured for Walter's place, as he has been out in this climate long enough and needs a thorough change. The Doctor, also, since his illness of 'Spanish Fever' shortly after the beginning of this school term, feels in need of a rest in the homeland, as he seems to have considerable headache and gets tired very easily, which probably is a 'trailer' of the fever. Mr. Weir should get home if possible, and certainly prefers doing so if matters could be arranged satisfactorily, and it goes without saying that the rest of our circle, which are the children and myself, are anxiously looking forward to a change which would be beneficial, which would be a rest with my father in the homeland. However, we will await God's time and planning, and whatever course is best for God's work here, that we shall follow. We hear we are to have regular mails now and we rejoice in this bit of good news, as it is so heartrending to wait for several weeks in succession without any word from home. I fear my attempt at letter writing has been rather unsatisfactory but at least it can help fill up your waste paper basket and I may be able to write a better one in the future. In closing, we ask your prayers, and the prayers of the entire Church, for the work of Cyprus, and that we missionaries may be true ambassadors of Christ, and carry on with greater zeal the work in this part of His vineyard."

In the midst of his many cares and duties, Mr. Wilbur Weir, teacher in the American Academy at Larnaca, has found time to write us. It will be remembered that Mr. Weir has signified his willingness to continue another year in the school work in Cyprus, although his furlough is due this spring. He says:

"One might think that a speck of

land like Cyprus, almost shut off from the rest of the world, would escape the Spanish influenza, but we have not been so fortunate. At about the same time that all public gatherings were prohibited at home, our building was more of a hospital than it was a school. The fever held on until almost everyone had taken his turn. On one day, the worst that we experienced, there were thirty students and two teachers in bed. These were all boarders and were in the school building. In addition to this number, many day students were ill at the same time. Fortunately, the fever spread in such a systematic way that only two or three of our teachers were absent at any particular time. Thus we were able to continue without closing the school. Rev. McCarroll and I have special reason for thanksgiving, since we are the only teachers who have escaped thus far. There have been no deaths among our student body and I think none was seriously ill. The disease usually kept one in bed about three days. It has spread to the villages now and is proving much more fatal. A school boy told me last week that in his village one hundred were sick and ten had died. Since there is a lack of proper care, we fear that among the village population the percentage of deaths will be high.

"Cyprus also had a part to play in the great peace celebration. Word came to our school on the evening of November 11 that the armistice had been signed. The message reached Mr. McCarroll during the supper hour. Needless to say, the noise that came from the dining-room was heard blocks away. The voice of students and teachers of seven nationalities seemed to compete in one great test of strength. One young man who has some oratorical ambitions, stood upon his chair and, with body and outstretched arms, hailed the day when Cyprus will be given to Greece, and Greece will become once more a mighty nation. After supper we all gathered

in the study room, and after singing numerous psalm selections, listened to short talks by some of the teachers and by a few members of the senior class. What the end of the war with an allied victory means to the great majority of people here was well expressed by an Armenian who remarked, 'This is our emancipation day.' We had no school for two days. One was given as a special vacation and on the following day we had our regular term excursion into the country.

"Not many changes have taken place since the fighting ceased. The British soldiers are with us yet. A few people have gotten away to England or Syria, but the way is not yet open for many to leave. Just what effect the return of normal conditions will have on our work here is difficult to foretell, but granting that many will leave we should still have a prosperous school for we are at present overcrowded. Surely a greater liberty has come to Eastern people. With this change the work of the missionary takes on greater importance. If the people at home are brought to realize this they will answer the urgent calls for workers in Syria and Cyprus. We need helpers out here and we need them now. Let us pray that all who have greater opportunities as a result of the return of peace will not fail."

* * * *

Tak Hing. This interesting letter from Dr. A. I. Robb, under date of December 23, has just arrived, and although the news department has been made up and sent to the printer, we feel the general interest in the arrival in China of Dr. Robb and family warrants our publishing it, even if not in its proper order of the news. He writes from Tak Hing a letter addressed to the Corresponding Secretary:

"Dear Brother:

"You will be glad to know that at last we are back to our field of labor, in safety and health. We reached

Hong Kong on the morning of the 14th, after a journey of 36 days across the Pacific, which in this instance was very unpacific. We had almost unceasing storms for the first two weeks and came into Japan five days behind schedule, and with our ship considerably battered up. Two outside stairways gone overboard, and the rest so bent and twisted that they had to be replaced. The hoisting winch for handling the anchors, bolted down with 20 1½-inch bolts (I counted them) was moved about an inch from its base, and we learned after reaching port that our front compartment had sixteen feet of water in it. Some of us read a part of the 107th Psalm with more of realization and more of gratitude than we had ever done.

"It required many days in the different ports of Japan to discharge the immense cargo of iron and timber and cotton and soda ash that we had carried over, and those so disposed had good opportunities to see the sights of Japan. They all returned to the ship with lightened purses (\$10 a night for rooms in hotels) and second editions of the "flu," which was rife in Japan, and has also been in China, but in a very much milder form than we were treated to in Seattle.

"We had smooth sea and nice weather for the most part, after reaching Japan, and the weather has been delightful since our arrival here, the thermometer ranging from 70 at night to 85 in the afternoon. Shirt sleeves and open windows have been the order. Ripe tomatoes and crisp lettuce, grown from Colorado seeds sent in advance, have been on our table daily.

"We have been busy unpacking and getting settled, and have seen the other missionaries but little as yet. They all seem to have something to keep them busy. Not so busy, however, but that all the adults who were 'fit' met us on the river bank at 4.30 on the morning of our arrival, and so far as one can judge, the new mis-

sionaries' study of this reluctant tongue has not in the least impaired their fluency with the mother tongue. The general health seems to be good, and all the work of the mission running. The girls' school, and women's school and boys' school are all in session. The training school, students and teachers, have been engaged in an evangelistic tour for some weeks, and were not here when we arrived. They came in at the last of the week for the Sabbath and report good opportunities and some very definite experiences of God's particular care. They go again today or tomorrow and our hearts go with them. I wish the church at home had time to pray for these men who in this work are the church's point of personal contact with the people in darkness.

"We note some changes. Four of the missionaries who were here when we left are now absent, three in the home land, and the other gone to her long home, with her pilgrimage journey ended. A plain granite slab marks the spot where she rests beside the other four who were laid away more than half a score of years ago, to wait, 'neath the palm trees' shade, the great day when 'they that sleep in the dust shall awake.'

"There are five new faces here, four of whom have reached the Celestial kingdom since our departure for the home land. It is a safe guess that whether they say it or not, they think there are many and large exceptions to the general application of the term Celestial to things in this land. Sights, sounds and smells would seem to largely be classified under another and very different term, certainly as low as of the earth, earthy.

"Communion was announced yesterday for the 19th of January. The annual mission meeting will begin on the 20th, and we expect to have all the Lo Ting and Canton friends with us then, and it is an event to look forward to.

"The Hong Kong papers give us the cheering news that after February

the fast Empress boats will be on the Pacific run again, and we will rejoice in being able to send letters in less than 60 days, as has been the case with much of the last year's correspondence."

MRS. HATTIE MORRIS.

The Ladies' Missionary Society of La Junta Congregation desires to record our appreciation of the life and worthy example of Mrs. Hattie Morris, who died December 22, 1917.

She was a lovable woman in her strong natural gifts and saintly character. Her child-like trust was beautiful. She loved her Bible—feeding upon it daily, and delighted to converse on its precious promises. She talked of her Saviour as her loving friend. Her idea of commending Christ to others was by example rather than precept, her loving heart overflowing.

We think of her going away in the language of Jacob, "Let me go for the day breaketh." The eternal day had dawned on her,

"She was beautiful and lovely when
with us here below,
But a far more radiant beauty now
shines about her brow;
Ear hath not heard such music as
now thrills her with delight;
Eye hath not seen such beauties as
have opened to her sight."

MRS. ADDA F. THOMPSON,
MISS CLARA HILL,
Committee.

If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, depend upon it you have more business on hand than God ever intended you should have.—*Dwight L.*

Prosperity is not without many fears and distastes; and adversity is not without comfort and hopes.—*Bacon.*

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Edited by MRS. J. S. MARTIN and MRS. M. E. METHENY,
College Hill, Beaver Falls, Pa.

**WORKING WOMEN OF THE
ORIENT.**

CHAPTER VI.

The Call for Leaders.

1. Can the men of the Orient be Leaders for the women?
2. Can the women of the West?
3. Whence must come the highest leadership?
4. How can we get this?
5. When is the time to shape character?
6. What must be given after the middle school?
7. When and by whom was the Constantinople College founded?
8. When did it become a College?
9. What was the first Christian College for women founded in Asia?
10. Give an account of its founding.
11. Was it a success?
12. Why was another needed?
13. How was the Madras College founded, and how is it ministered?
14. How long did the first building suffice?
15. Describe the new site, and tell how it was obtained.
16. Describe the opening of the College.
17. How were sufficient funds secured during the war?
18. What honorable recognition was given?
19. Give some account of the College Life.
20. Character of the studies.
21. What was the first College in China for girls?
22. Its beginnings and work?
23. Why was a second needed?
24. Its first home?
25. An account of its first and second years.
26. The College life.
27. The work of its Y. W. C. A.
28. What need of Christian native leadership?
29. What beginning in the far south of China?
30. What College is to open in Tokyo, and when?
31. Why is it necessary to provide funds for this?
32. What special schools are needed?
33. What advantage in Union?
34. What advantages are there for Mission work today?
35. Why do we need trained Bible women?
36. Can Western women do this work?
37. How can we help?
38. Would it not be better to wait till the war is over?
39. What is, or *should* be, the aim of this warfare?
40. What constructive work should we do?
41. Why should we keep on giving?
42. What is it that must be built up anew?

* * * *

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

Jack and Janet in the Philippines.

CHAPTER VI.

Touring the Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

Dear Boys and Girls:—

There are several different topics suggested in this last chapter that we might profitably discuss but let us turn to that suggestion of the writer's that "The people are fine when they are really Christians." Let us then think of the "Call of the Philippines."

Think of some of the facts given here. "There are three missionaries in Bohol for the three hundred thousand inhabitants." Two missionaries on the northern coast of the large island of Mindanao. In that

district there is a congregation of 100 members without a pastor. At the other end of the Island is a congregation of 700 members and no pastor, and many other places where pastors are needed. At Oaoquista there are no American missionaries yet we are told "The religious interest is wonderful."

It makes one think of Paul's vision of the Man of Macedonia calling, "Come over and help us." What would a pastor here think of trying to minister to 300,000 people? Dr. Graham's only helpers are his wife and a lady worker.

The boys and girls need education in domestic science, manual training and agriculture. They need to be taught the dignity of labor. That good farmers are more needed than lawyers and the calling just as honorable. The girls are learning to be nurses and school teachers and will help their own people.

More than all else, though, the people need to know God and the Bible. For years the knowledge of both was forbidden except as the priest chose to give it to them. They cannot get the knowledge now all at once. Some day they will have pastors from among their own people but it will take time to educate and train the young men and boys. In order that they may get the necessary education and training they must have the best of teachers and ministers to help them. They look to America for this help. Shall they look in vain?

We had to give our sons and brothers to fight their fellowmen to kill or, perhaps, be killed. Shall we not then be willing to see them go to help their fellowmen? To save others as well as their own souls?

We have given much money in the last year, whether grudgingly or willingly, God knows. However, many of us have discovered that we could give more than we had imagined possible. Shall we not then continue to practice the same economy and give

more to the Lord's work in the future?

The people of the Philippines are not starving for literal bread nor are they clad in rags, as Mrs. Stewart says the Armenians are, yet their souls are starving for the bread of life and they need to exchange their filthy rags of self-righteousness for the robe of Christ's righteousness. Shall we pay less heed to this call than to the other? In one case the body only is in danger but in the other, many souls may be lost if we do not heed the call that sounds in our ears. "Come over and help us."

We all have something to give—ourselves, our money, or our prayers. Prayer each one can, and should, give, and may the Lord show you which of the other gifts should be laid at his feet.

MARY A. McWILLIAMS.

* * * *

MOTHERS OF DEMOCRACY, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Jas. F. MacKee, the appointed correspondent for this month's issue of the OLIVE TREES, sends us this article, which was read at the Covenant Auxiliary of the Red Cross recently, in the Eighth Street Church of Pittsburgh, and was suggested for the OLIVE TREES:

To General Pershing

And the American Expeditionary
Forces Somewhere in France.

*Joyous Greetings From the Mothers
of America!*

"The secret consciousness
Of duty well performed—the public
voice
Of praise that honors virtue, and re-
wards it;
All these are yours."

American manhood—which before the war might be likened to a sleeping Giant—unconscious of His power—rose as one man, and under the Leadership of our beloved Pershing—

has confirmed our Universal Democracy, and won for America a place in the hearts of the Allied Nations, that naught but the Brotherhood of a common purpose, could have made possible.

"How wonderful is VICTORY—
but how dear."

VICTORY has never been won without sacrifice, and Death, the great Leveler, has stalked through the ranks of our brave boys, taking toll of our loved ones. The golden stars are gleaming—mute reminders of those who have helped to make the "World Safe for Democracy."

VICTORY is ours—Ours—and our brave Allies—and all the lives offered for the Eternal Principle of Right shall vibrate through the Ages—adorning the pages of History—inspiring to lofty sentiments and nobler living, those who still wait—
"That golden key—

That opens the palace of Eternity."

After all, Time is but the vestibule of Eternity, therefore let us not sorrow for our Martyred Heroes, but rather thank God for the loyal and unselfish devotion of the youth of our land—whose brilliant daring and sturdy courage will again make radiant the pages of American history.

We cannot measure the height or depth of the gift of these precious lives.

To the "Greatest Mother on Earth"—who with untiring zeal has shared the rigors of warfare with our boys, binding their wounded and broken bodies—cheering and encouraging the weary and disheartened—smiling and wonderful—a constant reminder of that other dear mother across the sea—brave women of the Red Cross—American Motherhood loves you for your tender ministrations and devotion to her boys.

How unsearchable are the ways of Providence, that we should receive in the cheerless days of grim November the glorious news of Victory—to light up the dark brown days.

Peace—"Peace on Earth" comes only by "Good Will to Men."

Thanking God for His infinite goodness in the Gift of Peace to all the World, we pray that the New Year may bring you home safe and well to the loved ones that wait your coming.

*Mothers of Democracy
of the United States of America.*

At a special Victory meeting of the Mothers of Democracy, the above message was unanimously approved and ordered forwarded with all haste to our dear ones and their noble commander. "All Hail to the Chief" into whose keeping has been entrusted the Mothers' Loan; a loan which will mature when you bring back to heart and home our loved ones.

Yours in high esteem,
(Signed)

ISABEL N. NEWMYER,
Executive Secretary,
Mothers of Democracy.

* * * *

The Annual Conference of the Student Volunteer Union of Western Pennsylvania was held at Geneva College, February 14, 15, 16. Eleven schools were represented, including one university, three seminaries and seven colleges.

Among the leaders of the Conference were Rev. J. H. Boyd, of Egypt; Miss Hawes, of China; Mrs. W. M. Dager, of Africa; Rev. Hunter, of India; Dr. F. M. Wilson, of our Foreign Mission Board; Rev. Detweiler, of Japan, and Mr. B. C. Millikin, Educational Secretary of the Presbyterian Board, who was a member of the Red Cross Expedition to Palestine, of which it will be remembered Rev. Edgar, Miss Evangeline Metheny and others of our acquaintance were also members. Mr. Millikin's account of conditions and the means used to change them was most interesting.

Each speaker, with but one exception, dwelt at length upon the effect of the war in his or her mission field. As one listened to the speakers one

felt that one was listening to men and women with a message. The personal contact with leaders of world-wide vision made each delegate feel a personal responsibility.

Secretaries representing the Foreign Mission Boards of the Reformed Presbyterian and Methodist denominations were present; also the State Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

The Conference adjourned to meet at Pittsburgh University in 1920.

Geneva College feels that the privilege of entertaining the conference this year will be the means of awakening a new interest in world needs among the students.

(Signed)

Alice PATTON,
Secretary.

* * * *

REMEMBER OUR RETURNING MISSIONARIES.

In a few days at the outside our missionaries will be on the Atlantic on their way to take up their interrupted work. At last accounts it seemed most probable that they would sail on Tuesday, the 18th, on the "Leviathan," formerly the namesake of William Hohenzollern. It would be a striking Providence if this should be the vessel to carry those whose work it will be to repair some of the damage caused by the owner of that name.

Let us remember this company in our prayers. The circumstances differ in different cases: that of Miss French is peculiarly painful, as she leaves a sister seriously ill.

The words of the 79th Psalm are applicable at this time in the lands to which they go, but let us not despair. In God's good time *all* His promises will be fulfilled.

* * * *

ERROR.

By an unfortunate omission the types in the February number have made the compilers of the list of correspondents appear like anti-suffragettes, by the omission of the *Mrs.* before the names of the women. Will

each subscriber take her pencil and insert the *ditto* marks before all the names except that of Miss Pearl Dunlap?

LITTLE STORIES FROM JERUSALEM

The Widow in Black.

"Hanum." A gawky boy with the first black down on his lip stood in front of me on the narrow sidewalk of a Jerusalem street. "It is Vahan," he said.

Gone the dust, the heat, the cosmopolitan crowd of Jerusalem. I was high on a seaward-looking peak of the Amanus in the far, far days before July, 1914. A row of poplars rustled in the afternoon breeze from the Mediterranean. I saw myself, as one sees another person, dismounting from my horse on a lawn snowy with daisies and a woman and her children running out to meet me. "Where are your father and mother and the other children?" I asked.

"My father, long life to you, is dead, and my brother is far behind the lines, but my mother and sisters are here."

"Bring them to see me."

Next day they came—the widow in black. She kissed my hands, sobbing. "Oh, the good days, Hanum, the old days that can never come back. They say that some time we may go back to our village. But the dead do not come back. You will be calling my husband to do this service and that for you, but he will not answer. When I see you, the bad years of exile and death are gone, and I think I am back in my village, with all my beloved, in the coolness and the quiet and the peace, with the children playing in the village streets and the men coming up from the town in the evening. How often I have washed my husband's feet when he came in footsore. Now he has gone on the longest journey, and his feet will never go over our mountain roads again. Nanum, when will peace come?"

(*Lady or Madam).

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